

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USNATO 07956 291921Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DOE-15
NASA-01 NSC-05 SOE-02 OES-09 /104 W
-----007144 301618Z /43

R 291917Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3537
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO DCA WASHDC
JCS WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USNATO 07956

SECDEF FOR OASD (C3I)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, ETEL, MARR
SUBJECT: LAUNCH VEHICLE FOR NATO IV SATELLITE

1. THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA) HAS FORMALLY PROPOSED THAT NICSMA CONSIDER USE OF THE ARIANE LAUNCH VEHICLE FOR THE NATO IV SATELLITES. THERE FOLLOW EXTRACTS FROM AN AUGUST 16 LETTER TO THE DG NICSMA MAKING THIS PROPOSAL.

BEGIN QUOTE:

- IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THE NATO IV SATELLITE SYSTEM, I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT THE OBJECTIVES AND THE STATUS OF ESA'S ARIANE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAMME AND SUGGEST THAT PRELIMINARY STEPS ARE TAKEN IN VIEW OF A POSSIBLE USE OF THIS LAUNCHER FOR YOUR 4TH GENERATION SYSTEM.

(BREAK IN TEXT)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USNATO 07956 291921Z

- ARIANE WILL BE LAUNCHED FROM THE ESA LAUNCH FACILITY IN KOUROU, FRENCH GUIANA. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS LAUNCHER IS ONE OF ESA'S PROGRAMMES. THE PROGRAMME DECISION WAS TAKEN IN 1973 AND THE FOLLOWING ESA MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATE: BELGIUM, DENMARK, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, UNITED

KINGDOM.

(BREAK IN TEXT)

- AT THE TIME WHEN YOU ARE ESTABLISHING YOUR PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR NATO 4, I FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO BASE THE NATO 4 SPACECRAFT SPECIFICATION ON THE COMPATIBILITY WITH BOTH ARIANE AND SHUTTLE.

END QUOTES.

2. IN HIS REPLY TO ESA, THE DG NICSMA STATED IN PART AS FOLLOWS.

QUOTE:

IT MIGHT WELL BE USEFUL FOR US TO HAVE SOME SORT OF PRESENTATION FROM YOU SOME TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND I WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU AGAIN ABOUT THIS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE A VERY FULL PROGRAMME OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY FOR ME TO CHECK THE SITUATION CAREFULLY WITH MY STAFF. THIS I WILL DO AND I WILL WRITE AGAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

UNQUOTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 USNATO 07956 291921Z

3. IN OUR VIEW, NATO'S USE OF THE ARIANE TO LAUNCH NATO IV SATELLITES CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AT ALL. ESA INCLUDES NATIONS WHICH ARE NOT NATO MEMBERS, AND THE LAUNCH SITE IS WELL OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA. THEREFORE, WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT DG NICSMA, IN HIS RESPONSE, SEEMS TO LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE ESA PROPOSAL.

4. NICSMA HAS NOT YET TABLED THE ESA PROPOSAL BEFORE THE NATIONS, SO WE BELIEVE IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE US TO REGISTER ITS VIEWS OFFICIALLY AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, APPROPRIATE US OFFICIALS MAY WISH TO RAISE THE QUESTION WITH THE DG NICSMA DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, POINTING OUT THAT USE OF THE ARIANE WOULD VIOLATE SEVERAL NATO PRINCIPLES. BENNETT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, SPACE FLIGHT, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO07956
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780354-0452
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780811/aaaaaiyb.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5ca61759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1568566
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAUNCH VEHICLE FOR NATO IV SATELLITE
TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NATO, NICsMA
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5ca61759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014